IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-18 (Cancelled)

19.   (Previously Presented) An apparatus comprising:

a communications port of a messaging system for sending and receiving packets between the messaging system and a connected property management device;

means for determining a communications parameter set for a packet received from a property management device connected to the communications port;

means for analyzing the received packet data structure;

means for comparing the received packet data structure with a data structure for a known type of device; and

means for determining if the device coupled to the communications port is a known property management device by determining if the data structure of the packet matches that for the known type of property management device.

20.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the means for determining whether a property management device is connected comprises means for checking for data received at the communications port.

21.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the means for determining whether a property management device is connected comprises means for sending a signal through the communications port and means for checking for a response.

22.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the means for determining a communications parameter set comprises means for applying a variety of baud rate and parity setting to the packet and selecting a baud rate and parity combination that is consistent with the packet.

23.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the means for comparing comprises a series of conditional branch instructions for determining a matching known type of property management device.

24.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 19 wherein the messaging system is a voice mail system.

25.   (Previously Presented) A messaging system comprising:
a communications port for sending and receiving packets between the messaging system and a connected property management device;
a memory to store a set of data structures of known types of property management devices; and
a processor coupled to the port and the memory to analyze the data structure of a packet received at the communications port from a device connected to the communications port, to compare the received packet data structure with the stored known data structures, and to determine that the property management device coupled to the communications port is a known type of property management device if the data structure of the received packet matches the data structure for the known type of property management device.

26.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 25, wherein the memory further stores communications parameter sets and wherein the processor applies a variety of baud rate and parity setting to the packet to select a baud rate and parity combination that is consistent with the packet.

27.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 26, wherein the processor compares the value of a byte and the selected baud rate and parity combination to stored combinations of values for known types of property management devices.

28.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 25, wherein the processor executes a series of conditional branch instructions for determining a matching known types of property management device.